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SECURITY INFORMATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION  
FOR  
POLITICAL PROSPECTS IN IRAN

I. Estimated Tudeh strength in Iran:

- A. July 1953 -- 20,000 to 35,000, with an estimated hard core of 1,000.
  - (1) Tudeh sympathizers number is several times this figure.
- B. April 1953 -- Tudeh strength in armed forces estimated at 1,600; about 20 percent of military school students believed members.

II. 19 June Tehran demonstrations:

- A. Government sponsored -- 3,000.
- B. Tudeh demonstrators (marching in other parts of city) -- 12,000.

III. 21 July 1953 Tehran demonstrations:

- A. Government sponsored -- 10,000 to 20,000.
- B. Government-sanctioned Communist demonstrations -- 50,000 to 100,000.

IV. Legal status of Tudeh in Iran:

- A. 1949 -- declared illegal by ministerial action and approved by Majlis.
- B. 19 March 1953 -- Ministry of Justice reportedly exonerated top Tudeh leaders who had been sentenced to death "in absentia."
  - (1) Ruled that the Tehran military court lacked jurisdiction.
- C. No firm indication that Mossadeq will legalize Tudeh.

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V. Tudeh support of Mossadeq:

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- A. 4 April 1953 -- Tudeh member told [redacted] that the party had instructed its members to "protect" Mossadeq's government against a possible coup.

VI. Mossadeq's proposed administration of referendum:

- A. Two persons in each constituency to be nominated to supervise referendum committee in charge of polls.
- B. In each polling center, two boxes will be installed, one for votes in favor and the other for votes opposed to dissolution of the Majlis.
- C. Referendum in Tehran and suburbs in one day, to be held in entire country within seven days.
- D. As soon as all votes are collected, they will be forwarded to the Ministry of Interior and final results will be announced.

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